DEFENSE MOBILITY FUELS AND GOVERNMENT R&D. Dr. R. M. Davis, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Advanced Technology, Room 3E114, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301

Our national security objectives can be achieved only if we are thoroughly prepared to meet essential military energy requirements. The continuation of our ability to deter armed conflict, to produce modern weapon systems, to maintain the readiness of our military forces, and to support worldwide commitments on the seas, in the air, and on the ground depends on energy, particularly liquid hydrocarbon fuels. As evidenced by the fact that crude oil imports now comprise nearly 50 percent of the U.S. petroleum demand, our most serious near term energy problem is our growing reliance upon foreign oil to compensate for the inability of domestic energy production to keep pace with domestic energy demand. Considering the practical reality of DOD's continued dependence upon liquid hydrocarbon fuels, this pattern of ever increasing dependence upon foreign oil poses a most serious threat to our ability to guarantee adequate energy supplies to meet essential military requirements, particularly for mobility fuels. In response to this current and most critical energy issue, the Department of Defense has undertaken a series of actions which are intended to provide the basic framework upon which it can formulate a comprehensive, fully coordinated defense mobility fuels strategy. These actions will be discussed with particular emphasis on DOD's efforts to develop the capability to transition to synthetic mobility fuels.